

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 332**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Fuentes**

February 18, 2009

---

An act to amend Section 51760 of, and to add Section 51760.1 to, the Education Code, relating to work-based learning, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 332, as introduced, Fuentes. Work-based learning.

Existing law authorizes school districts that maintain high schools to establish work experience programs for the purpose of providing pupils with instruction in skills, attitudes, and understandings necessary for success in employment.

This bill would state the findings of the Legislature regarding work-based learning, as defined. This bill would authorize school districts that maintain high schools to establish work-based learning programs, and to purchase liability insurance for pupils enrolled in programs of study involving work-based learning, off school grounds. The bill would authorize partnership academies, regional occupational programs, and other educational programs to deliver work-based learning opportunities for pupils that may include work experience education, community classrooms, cooperative career technical education programs, and job shadowing experience, as specified.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of  
2 the following:

3     (a) Public secondary education prepares pupils for success after  
4 high school, including further education and training without  
5 remediation, productive employment with opportunities for  
6 advancement, and civic participation.

7     (b) Well-designed education programs intentionally combine  
8 rigorous college preparatory education with demanding career  
9 technical education, both of which are supported by high-quality  
10 work-based learning and necessary support services that promote  
11 success.

12     (c) Work-based learning is an essential component of any  
13 comprehensive educational program of study. It brings meaning  
14 and relevance to the educational program.

15     (d) Work-based learning offers opportunities to learn through  
16 real-world experience. Pupils gain access to job shadowing,  
17 mentorships, intensive internships, real or virtual apprenticeships,  
18 and school-based enterprises. These experiences complement  
19 classroom instruction and help sharpen the desire of pupils to  
20 increase knowledge and skills that are relevant to their  
21 postsecondary and career interests.

22     (e) Work-based learning is currently provided to pupils through  
23 existing programs, including, but not limited to, work experience,  
24 cooperative vocational education, regional occupational programs,  
25 and community classrooms.

26     (f) High-quality work-based learning includes systematic  
27 attention to the development of 21st century skills, such as  
28 communication, problem solving, teamwork, project planning, and  
29 critical thinking.

30     (g) Furthermore, work-based learning allows pupils to work  
31 side by side with adult professionals who help instill professional  
32 behavior, real-world expectations, a strong work ethic, the need  
33 for ongoing learning, and a desire to achieve.

34     (h) High-quality work-based learning experiences share the  
35 following characteristics:

36     (1) Prioritization of learning over work production.

(2) Exposure to a wide range of career areas and worksites in order to help youth make informed choices about education, training options, and career pursuits.

(3) Thoughtful placement of pupils into opportunities that are evaluated for their safety, qualified supervision, and learning opportunities.

(4) Appropriate sequencing of experiences based upon the pupil's age and maturity, ranging from site visits and tours, job shadowing, unpaid and paid internships, and paid work experience.

(5) Explicit aim to supplement, or systematically reinforce, classroom instruction in technical courses, academic courses, or both.

(6) A trained workplace mentor who works in collaboration with a classroom teacher to structure the learning at the worksite.

(7) Built-in regular assessment and feedback.

(8) Involvement of youth in choosing and structuring the experience.

(9) Clear and measurable learning outcomes.

(i) Work-based learning may take many forms, including, but not limited to, job shadowing, internships, work experience, community classrooms, real or virtual apprenticeships, and school-based enterprises.

SEC. 2. Section 51760 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51760. The governing board of ~~any~~ a district maintaining a high school may *do all of the following*:

(a) Provide for the instruction of pupils in the skills, attitudes, and understandings necessary to ~~success~~ *succeed* in employment by means of courses of *work-based learning or* work experience education as provided in this article.

(b) Provide for guidance and supervision procedures designed to ~~insure~~ *ensure* maximum educational benefit to ~~students~~ *pupils* from placement in suitable *work-based learning or* work experience education courses.

(c) Provide for arranging, approving, coordinating, and awarding credit for *work-based learning or* work experience education courses, and for those purposes employ instructors, coordinators, and other necessary personnel.

(d) Provide for the district to purchase liability insurance for ~~students~~ *pupils* enrolled in programs of study involving work

1 experience, *which may include work-based learning*, or vocational  
2 education at locations off school grounds approved by the  
3 governing board, or require ~~students~~ *pupils* to purchase insurance  
4 and to pass on all or a portion of the costs, at the discretion of the  
5 governing board, to the district.

6 SEC. 3. Section 51760.1 is added to the Education Code, to  
7 read:

8 51760.1. (a) Work-based learning opportunities for pupils may  
9 be delivered by partnership academies conducted pursuant to  
10 Article 5 (commencing with Section 54690) of Chapter 9 of Part  
11 29, regional occupational programs, as defined in Section 52303,  
12 and other educational programs, and may include, but are not  
13 limited to, work experience education, as defined in Section 51764,  
14 community classrooms, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section  
15 52372.1, cooperative career technical education programs, as  
16 defined in subdivision (b) of Section 52372.1, and job shadowing  
17 experience, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 51769.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, school districts opting to  
19 offer work-based learning opportunities to pupils shall ensure that,  
20 when applicable, pupils are afforded the same statutory and  
21 regulatory safeguards as pupils in work experience programs.

22 (c) For purposes of this section, “work-based learning” means  
23 an educational approach or instructional methodology that uses  
24 the workplace or real work to provide pupils with the knowledge  
25 and skills that will help them connect school experiences to real-life  
26 work activities and future career opportunities. When feasible,  
27 work-based learning should be an integral part of a more  
28 comprehensive pathway program that integrates challenging  
29 academic courses and demanding career technical education.

30 (d) High-quality work-based learning may include, but is not  
31 limited to, any of the following:

32 (1) Emphasis on learning in the workplace.

33 (2) Exposure to a wide range of career areas and worksites in  
34 order to help youth make informed choices about education,  
35 training options, and career pursuits.

36 (3) Thoughtful placement of pupils into opportunities that are  
37 evaluated for their safety, qualified supervision, and learning  
38 opportunities.

1 (4) Appropriate sequencing of experiences based upon the  
2 pupil's age and maturity, ranging from site visits and tours, job  
3 shadowing, unpaid and paid internships, and paid work experience.

4 (5) Explicit aim to supplement, or systematically reinforce,  
5 classroom instruction in technical courses, academic courses, or  
6 both.

7 (6) Systematic attention to the development of 21st century  
8 skills, such as communication, problem solving, teamwork, project  
9 planning, and critical thinking.

10 (7) A trained mentor who structures the learning at the worksite.

11 (8) Coordination between the classroom teacher and the  
12 workplace mentor or supervisor.

13 (9) Built-in regular assessment and feedback.

14 (10) Involvement of youth in choosing and structuring the  
15 experience.

16 (11) Clear and measurable learning outcomes.

17 This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the  
19 meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into  
20 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

21 Because of current economic conditions and lack of education  
22 funding, public and private partnerships are necessary for pupils  
23 to learn relevant skills inside and outside the classroom and because  
24 work-based learning has proven to engage pupils very effectively  
25 in preparation for higher education and the work place, it is  
26 necessary that this act take effect immediately.